



Department of Justice

United States Attorney James R. Dedrick
Eastern District of Tennessee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008

CONTACT: SHARRY DEDMAN-BEARD
PHONE: 865-545-4167

SULLIVAN COUNTY MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Michael Eugene Noel indicted on three federal counts relating to child pornography.

[GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE] - On February 12, 2008, a federal grand jury indicted MICHAEL EUGENE NOEL with the receipt and possession of child pornography and impeding the due administration of justice. Noel, age 37, a resident of Kingsport, Sullivan County, Tennessee, was formerly a teacher employed by the Hawkins County Board of Education at the Clinch School in Eidson, Tennessee.

James R. "Russ" Dedrick, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee, noted that protection of children remains a high national priority of the Department of Justice and the Attorney General. According to Dedrick, "the Department of Justice Project Safe Childhood addresses what the Attorney General has described as a compelling and righteous cause, to respond to a true public safety concern. Federal, state, and local governments, non-profits like the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, churches and community centers, businesses, parents, and children themselves must work together to protect our communities' children."

If convicted of the charges, Noel faces a punishment of not less than five years and not more than twenty years imprisonment on the receipt of child pornography charge; a maximum punishment of ten years imprisonment on the possession of child pornography charge; and a maximum of ten years imprisonment on the charge of impeding the due administration of justice, as well as fines of \$250,000 on each count and supervised release for up to life. The public is reminded that Noel is presumed innocent until convicted.

In separate charges in the Second Judicial District of the State of Tennessee, District Attorney Greeley Wells charged Noel with four felony counts, including sexual battery, aggravated sexual battery, solicitation of sexual exploitation of a minor, and attempted especially aggravated exploitation of a minor in violation of Tennessee law.

The law enforcement agencies involved in the investigation and indictment of Noel include the Kingsport Police Department Detective Division, and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Scott County Virginia Sheriff's Office assisted in the arrest of Noel on February 14, 2008.

For further information about this case, contact United States Attorney James R. Dedrick at 865-545-4167; Assistant U.S. Attorney Helen C.T. Smith, in Greeneville at 423-639-6759; or Public Information Officer Sharry Dedman-Beard, at 865-545-4167.